(c) The financial assistance extended by Tea Board under its Plan Scheme for new planting activity in new areas, is as under:

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs. Lakhs)
2000-01	238.11
2001-02	365.00
2002-03	601.67

The amount disbursed during 2002-03 includes committed expenditure of 9th Plan cases and grant for raising tea nurseries.

Free trade agreement with EU

†2023. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the European Union is considering to sign a free trade agreement with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the conditions of the above trade agreement; and

(d) the time frame fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No such proposal has been received.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Investment by NRIs

†2024. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pace of capital investment by the NRIs is very slow:

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) if not, the extent of investment made so far?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.